Chapter. 98

Soft Wind

Momo. Age 1 year 7 months. Her Onei-chan made her that bib with a towel handkerchief.

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

!
HUU...

I GUESS EVERYONE'S IN KYOTO RIGHT NOW.

EVEN IF YOU DON'T ACTUALLY FEEL THAT WAY.

—YES, SOOO

HOW 'BOUT YOU MAKE A BIT MORE OF A REMORSEFUL FACE?

THE FINALS ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF A SCHOOL TRIP DAY, SO I GUESS YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GO TO THAT, HUH?

CONGRATS ON MAKING IT TO THE FINALS OF GROUP 3 OF THE SHISHI-OU CHAMPIONSHIP!

ON ANOTHER NOTE, I REALLY FEEL LIKE I SHOULD SAY 'CONGRATU-LATIONS'.

WELL,

Yes...

SORRY. ♭

LIKE A 'IT KINDA DIDN'T SEEM LIKE HE FELT BAD AT ALL...' KINDA SMILE?

YOU SAW THAT BITTER SMILE THE HOMEROOM TEACHER SAKKISAKA-SENSEI HAD, RIGHT?

ﾋｿ...

AH... ER, WELL, I'M HUMBLED.

EVEN ON THE INTERNET EVERYBODY SEEMED SURPRISED. LIKE 'I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS SORT OF KIRIYAMA!'

THAT'S THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE DONE THAT IN AN OFFICIAL GAME, ISN'T IT?

THAT WAS SOME GREAT DANG PERSEVER-ANCE!!

YOU EVEN MANAGED TO FORM THAT STATIC HISHA ANAGUMA YOU BARELY EVER PLAY!

BUT I SAW THE NOTATIONS ON THE INTERNET.

AND THAT WAS A REAL BATTLE! SO YOU WERE UP AGAINST HACHIYA 5-DAN?

WAAAA Do your best, Kiriyama-san!

and you managed to hold out until the time was counting down and made a huge comeback!!

A kin, gin, and uma charged into your camp

And no sooner had you launched that battle formation you weren't used to, you ended up in a huge battle right after the mid-game.

SFX: DON DON

I'm... really sorry...

CLEAR AS DAY.

YEP

— FEELING COMING FROM THAT PLAY, KIRIYAMA!!

I SENSED A STRONG 'I don't want to go on that field trip no matter what.'

SFX: KAAAA... GOHO GOHO GOHO (COUGH COUGH COUGH)

SO IT LOOKS LIKE

THE 3 YEARS OF YOUR REDOING YOUR HIGH SCHOOL LIFE

IS GOING TO END WITHOUT EVER ONCE

GOING ON AN OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP...

YEAH.

THEN WHAT'S WITH

THAT LOOK OF RELIEF ON YOUR FACE?

I MEAN, WELL,

I THINK I'M OKAY WITH IT THIS WAY.

YEAH.

THERE REALLY WEREN'T ANY CHANGES AT ALL, THOUGH.

NO.

I WOULDN'T SAY THAT, RIGHT?

LOTS OF STUFF HAPPENED.

THAT'S NOT TRUE...

—— A WHOLE LOT, DON'T YOU THINK?

...

YEAH.

'Well, I guess that's fine.'

an endpoint I had never considered,

in the end, finished with

that got me hurt a ton and made me cry

In this quest I kept hurling myself at it thinking 'I've got to clear this!'

— In the end, nothing changed.

I'm not feeling pangs of guilt anymore.

although this wasn't different from my 1st, 2nd, or 3rd year,

The thing that made me feel relieved even without going on the field trip was,

finding a place to put your feelings.

it was prob-ably

was not the quest itself,

What you wanted to clear

the 'common ground'.

What you'd call

this thing called school.

of my tear-stained and snot-stained grapple with

the end point

— Yes, this place is probably

the fact that

I feel so oddly cheerful is interesting to me.

It's kind of a, uh, pitiful final scene, but —

OH, I GET YA.

SO I THOUGHT I MIGHT USE IT AS A CHANCE TO STUDY A BIT.

SHIMADA-SAN AND KUMAKURA-SAN HAVE A MATCH TODAY

UH, NO.

OH,

DOING OKAY, KIRIYAMA? WHAT? YOU HAVE A MATCH TODAY?

将棋会館

Sorry, I just...

Ah, I thought so...

THAT WAITING ROOM'S A PACKED HOUSE.

Nikaidou and Shigeta and some other guys are there...

YOU GUYS ALL SEEM TO LIKE SHIMADA A BIT TOO MUCH, DON'T YA THINK?

YOU SURE ARE ENTHUSIASTIC. OR ACTUALLY,

AH!

RIGHT, HERE.

HEEY, GUYS! WE'VE GOT SOME SNACKS HEEERE!

MIKAZUKI-YAKI? I WAS JUST GETTING HUNGRY!

HUH? WHAT? ARE YOU SURE?

THE CANDY STORE OWNERS THAT ARE ALWAYS HELPING ME WITH THINGS SAID 'HELP YOURSELF TO THESE TEA CAKES'.

I would love some!!

Ooh!

GET YOUR NAME ON THEM? SOUNDS NICE.

I'll just leave a flyer for them right here

They told me feel free to use them for celebrations and that sort of thing.

If you order dorayaki, you can even get your name printed on them.

MMM. THESE ARE GREAT! THE SKIN'S ALL SOFT...

Busi-ness Smile

PLEASE, KIRIYAMA-KUN! WE HAVE SO FEW ORDERS FOR JUNE..

SFX: SASAH MOGU MOGU (CHEWING)

T/N: DORAYAKI ARE CONFECTIONARIES MADE OF TWO CASTELLA SPONGE CAKE PANCAKES AROUND ADZUKI BEAN PASTE

HERE

WANT SOME, SOUYA?

HUH?

...

DON'T DRIP ANY ON THOSE RANK DIPLOMAS.

PUT THE BRUSH DOWN

—Not since that typhoon in Sendai...

OH,

HELLO.

HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE

HE'S GOT QUITE A FEW OF THEM TO DO.

IT'S A PAIN FOR HIM TO MOVE AROUND A LOT SO WHEN SOUYA IS IN TOKYO WE HAVE HIM SIGN THEM ALL HERE

I SEE. SO YOU DO THAT HERE, HUH?

SIGNING RANK DIPLOMAS?

WELL IT IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF A MEIJIN'S DUTIES.

YOU REALLY PRACTICED, HUH?

HIS HANDWRITING USED TO BE REALLY NARROW LIKE LITTLE SLUDGE WORMS...

NICE HANDWRITING, AIN'T IT?

AND HE'S GOT THOUSANDS MORE TO WRITE.

もじ もじ

スススッ

Moving it out of harm's way

SOUYA'S IN LOTS OF COMMERCIALS AND STUFF LIKE THAT, TOO.

YOU END UP WITH A TON OF JOBS OUTSIDE YOUR MAIN ONE

WHEN YOU BECOME THE FACE OF THE SHOGI WORLD

SFX: SUSUSU. BORO BORO. MOGU MOGU

SPONSORS ...

.....

SPEAKING OF SPONSORS, SHIMADA....

HAAAAAA

THAT GUY GOT SOME AMAAAAZING GOOD NEWS, TOO.

HUH?! SHIMADA-SAN?!

ANIJA IN A COMMER-CIAL?! WHERE?! WHAT COMPANY IS IT?!

IT WAS A GREAT, GREAT COMPANY ...

A NATIONAL CLIENT, DANGIT!

AND SHIMADA... THAT BASTARD... HE TURNED THEM DOWN!!

SFX: BURU BURU BURU.. (SHAKING)

HUUUUH?! WHY?! DID HE SAY WHY?!

ANIJA WOULD MAKE SUCH AN AMAZING FACE FOR THE SHOGI WORLD!

WHAT COMPANY THAT OFFERED IT?!

I'll try to get him to change his mind!!

Could he be talking about...

SFX: ZUIHH

It was like.... An artsyand nature-ish kind of thing!!!

— He should've been saying something like 'This is the perfect opportunity!!' or somethin', right?!

It has plenty to do with him! It's right up his alley!

— Can you believe he says that...?

I said I was humbled by their offer, but I don't think

I really need things like that yet...

Aa...

I told him what a huge sponsor that was, that idiot!!

OWW

AAA

T/N: ART NATURE IS A COMPANY THAT SELLS THINGS LIKE WIGS AND HAIR-GROWTH PRODUCTS.

SFX: KU...

WAAAAHN!!

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO HUMBLY DECLINE!!

YA GOTTA KNOCK SOME SENSE INTO SHIMA-DA!!

HEY, WOULD YOU TWO GIVE IT ONE MORE SHOT TO TRY AND CHANGE HIS MIND?!

将棋会館

Chapter 98 END

Senzaki Manabu's Lion Shogi Column
AN ARTICLE BY SENZAKI MANABU 3

REGARDING TITLE MATCH SPONSORS

There are 7 title matches in the world of men's shogi and the sponsers for all of them are newspaper companies. Specifically they are:

Ryuu-Ou Championship - Yomiuri Shimbun
Meijin Championship - Asahi Shimbun, Mainichi Shimbun (Disregard ordering)
Oui Championship - A collection of prominent local newspapers
Ouza Championship - Nihon Keizai Shimbun
Ki-Ou Championship - A collection of prominent local newspapers
Oushou Championship - Mainichi Shimbun, Sports Nippon
Kisei Championship - Sankei Shimbun

The back of newspapers have columns on shogi and go. They'll print game notations there which they pay the Japan Shogi Association money for and that money goes to the winners depending on how well they do and that's how we make out living.

Still, it's unusual for professional organization to have newspapers as sponsors. For games like golf, they're all businesses.

Having newspapers as sponsors is a bit complicated. After all, the people providing the financial backing and reporting the events are the same people. So if you look at the reporters interviewing the players from that perspective, they're both reporters and sponsors. Consequently the players pay more care to the reporters than the normal world does. Sponsors are absolute. But I believe that a comfortable tension should exist between the reporters and those being reported on, so it's a difficult subject. Though honestly, I'm used to it.

There are a lot of newspaper sponsors, but we have a long history. So I'll be speaking for experience here.

The period of rapid increase of sales of newspapers just before and just after a championship directly coincided with the time when the current systems the shogi world and go world were created. With shogi, we had stopped doing the hereditary system or the expert system we had done until that point and changed to a merit system of Meijin Championship and Go also had many really stimulating games going on at the time. This period, also called the cradle period in the modern shogi world, is where the newspapers have exclusive rights to the match notations which brought in lots of popularity. It went from a small group of intelligentsia reading them to huge numbers of people being able to read them. And that change in the newspaper was ideal for shogi and go.

And so, newspapers started sponsoring us one after another and here we are. It was in this period that the current system which I personally call the 'Go Seigen Regime'.

Go Seigen-san is a super-giant in the world of go and thanks to having exclusive rights over this man's go games, it's said that a certain huge newspaper became a success. Without appearing in any title matches of the time at all, Go-san said "If anyone thinks they can beat me, let's have a 10-game match and see who wins!" (So cool!) And so challengers came after him one after another and he crushed them all, so of course he became tremendously popular.

But now with young people starting to leave newspapers, I don't know how long the Go Seigen Regime will go on for. I want to offer my sincere thanks to the thoughtful businesses that support the 'combat of the mind' and 'the exquisite competition that combines knowledge and striving for victory' of shogi and go.

3-GATSU NO LION VOLUME 10

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